NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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A Message from the Director

On behalf of the staff of the Library, I extend Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year.

1966 has been a period of steady growth, improved services, and renewed dedication to the Library's mission of assisting the advancement of medicine and the health-related sciences.

I am pleased to report the following highlights of the past 12 months and to express our appreciation for your continued interest and support.

The Library's staff developed comprehensive plans to improve the flow of biomedical information. A 5-year program design, incorporating recommendations of the NLM Board of Regents, was prepared for presentation to the Surgeon General. The plan calls for the Library to provide support and guidance for the development of the existing informal system of biomedical libraries into a responsive, efficient national network.

Network development was begun under the impetus of the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965, with funds being made available to the Nation's medical libraries for improved facilities, resources, training, and research in information handling technology.

NLM intramural efforts to provide centralized resources for the network were expanded. The Library placed new emphasis on acquiring, organizing, and disseminating information in new forms (graphic images, audiovisual materials) in addition to traditional forms (published literature).

Further decentralization of NLM's computer-based Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System (MEDLARS) represented an important step in network development. Additional MEDLARS search centers were established at the Universities of Alabama and Michigan, and at Harvard University.

To provide a centralized cataloging service for medical libraries and to speed their acquisition programs, the NLM introduced a new computer-produced publication, the *NLM Current Catalog*. Issued biweekly since January 1966, with quarterly and annual cumulations, the new publication provides complete bibliographic data on new acquisitions cataloged by the Library.

The Library also began publishing *Cumulated Index Medicus*, Vol. 6, 1965. This annual cumulation of citations appearing in the monthly *Index Medicus* was

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
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Published monthly by the Public Information Office, National Library of Medicine, Public Health Service, for health science libraries, the health professions, and news media.

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formerly published by the American Medical Association from film copy prepared by MEDLARS Graphic Arts Composing Equipment (GRACE).

The NLM's Drug Literature Program participated in the development of several cooperative projects designed to support more efficient collection, processing, and dissemination of published literature on the effects of drugs on man and animals. The pilot issue of a computer-produced toxicity bibliography was compiled and distributed to experts for critical review.

The Library installed teletypewriter equipment and established a format for using the new facility to speed transmission of interlibrary loan requests.

A report by the National Bureau of Standards team and a conference of authorities from industry and government enabled the Library to expand its programs of microfilming biomedical literature that is endangered by paper deterioration. Pilot contracts were awarded for the microfilming of two million pages of journal literature, supplementing NLM's inhouse microfilming now increased to two million pages per year.

Martin M. Cummings

Martin M. Cummings, M.D.

NLM PROGRAM REPORT NO. 4 - LIBRARY ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Dr. Wilson

Dr. Marjorie P. Wilson, Associate Director for Extramural Programs, has announced that among several projects in information science receiving Public Health Service support is a comprehensive study to determine how medical scientists seek information in their own working environments.

The project, for which NLM has awarded a grant of $38,653 to Northwestern University, is entitled "Experiments on information environments of researchers." Principal investigator is Albert H. Rubenstein, Ph.D.

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1966 CIM is Now in Press

Dr. Leiter

Cumulated Index Medicus, Volume 7, 1966, will be available early in February 1967. The new volume will contain more than 164,000 citations to biomedical articles indexed in the 12 monthly issues of *Index Medicus* for 1966.

According to Dr. Joseph Leiter, Associate Director for Intramural Programs, "Improvements in the NLM's computer-based Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System (MEDLARS) have made possible the publication of the 1966 cumulation several months earlier than ever before. This represents a major step in the Library's efforts to accelerate the flow of biomedical information to clinicians, scientists, and educators."

The 1966 *Cumulated Index Medicus* will be issued in four case-bound volumes: the first three list citations by subject; the fourth lists them by author. The first volume also contains a list of all journals indexed for *Index Medicus* in 1966, and, for the first time, *Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)*. *MeSH* is published annually as Part 2 of the January *Index Medicus* and has now been included in *Cumulated Index Medicus* to help users identify specific concepts and subjects.

Cumulated Index Medicus, Volume 7, 1966, will be available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for $40 per set ($50 foreign). A limited supply of Volume 6, 1965, is still available from the Government Printing Office at the same price.

Information Consultant to Plan Toxicology Program

Dr. Rice

Charles N. Rice, Ph.D., has been appointed to the Library as principal consultant for specialized information services. He will be responsible for planning the implementation of a new toxicology information program. The program is being established in accordance with recommendations of the President's Science Advisory Committee.

Dr. Rice was formerly with Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, where, as manager of information services, he initiated the firm's science information services program. Previously, he had designed the company's radiochemistry laboratories and headed its radiochemistry department and radioactivity safety committee for 12 years.

A native of Indiana, Dr. Rice attended Franklin College and earned his graduate degree in physical chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley. During World War II he was on the staff of the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos, New Mexico. Before joining Lilly, he taught chemistry at Purdue University.

Dr. Rice has served on the Indiana Governor's Radiation Control Advisory Commission for the past five years. He is chairman of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association literature committee, a consultant to the National Science Foundation, and active in committee work of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council.

Pilot Bibliography of Medical Reviews is Published

To stimulate broader exchange of biomedical information, the Library is publishing two pilot issues of a proposed monthly *Bibliography of Medical Reviews*.

Reviews provide health professionals and students with rapid access to information in specific subject areas. Functionally, the review represents an effort to synthesize and evaluate reported information and to relate it to the cumulated knowledge of a particular research field.

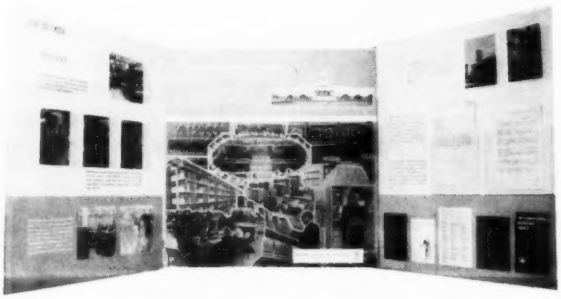
A bibliography of medical reviews is now included in the monthly *Index Medicus*. The *Bibliography of Medical Reviews* has been cumulated annually since 1956.

Pilot Issue No. 1 contains a 16-page listing of citations by subject and a 6-page listing of authors. The citations are to reviews indexed in the October 1966 *Index Medicus*. It is being distributed to subscribers to the *NLM News* and throughout the biomedical community for review to determine interest in possible widespread distribution as a separate monthly subscription publication.

The subscription rate from the Government Printing Office would be approximately $1.75 for the monthly publication and $1.25 for the annual cumulation.

Table Top MEDLARS Exhibit for Loan

This new display sets up on a 5' table. It describes MEDLARS and its products. Libraries wishing to borrow the unit for 3-week periods should send preferred dates (and two alternates) to the Public Information Office, National Library of Medicine.



NLM Current Catalog to be Expanded

The *NLM Current Catalog* which began publication in January 1966 will be issued in an expanded format beginning in January 1967. On the advice of a panel of distinguished medical librarians, and in response to user requests, a subject listing of publications cataloged will be included in the biweekly

issues. Biweekly issues will appear in three-column format, and the size will be the same as the present cumulations. Subscribers will be notified by the Government Printing Office of an increased subscription rate, which will also be announced in the January *NLM News*.

NLM Library Associate Program, 1967/68

The Library is soliciting applications for its second Library Associate Program, 1967/68, from students who have graduated or will have graduated by August 1967 from an accredited school of library or information science.

The program provides a year of intensive academic study and specialized work at the operational level in modern medical library science. Study and work are supplemented by seminars and lectures, after-hours postgraduate study, participation in NLM staff meetings, visits to area medical and research libraries and information centers, and attendance at meetings of professional librarians in the Washington metropolitan area.

Applications must be submitted to NLM by April 3, 1967, to receive consideration for the 1967/68 program, which begins on September 1, 1967. Successful applicants will be notified by May 15, 1967.

Applicants must be citizens of the United States and qualified under Federal Civil Service regulations for appointment as a librarian (GS-7, $6,451 per annum). Reading competence in at least one foreign language is required. A background in the medical, biological, or information sciences is desirable.

Additional information and application forms are available from the Training Officer, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

January Index Medicus to be Late

Production of the January *Index Medicus* will be delayed due to mechanical failure of the Library's computer-driven Graphic Arts Composing Equipment (GRACE). This will also affect the production schedule of the *NLM Current Catalog* and other GRACE products.

Although the MEDLARS on-line printer can prepare copy for publication, GRACE copy is superior. It is hoped, therefore, that GRACE can be repaired in time to make substitution unnecessary.

To preclude such delays in the future, the Library is making arrangements for backup photocomposition by commercial sources which are expected to be operational early next year.

Notice to Subscribers

Annual circularization of *NLM News* subscribers is required by the Bureau of the Budget. A pre-addressed reply form is being mailed separately. To ensure continuation of your subscription, please fill out the form and return it promptly.

Pre-Columbian Exhibit Extended

Under Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Wilbur J. Cohen and other Department officials previewed 100 miniatures selected from the Weisman Collection of Pre-Columbian Medical Sculpture in a new exhibit at the Department's Washington, D.C. headquarters. This is the first public showing of the ancient figurines which range from 3/4" to 5" in length. They supplement the 131 pieces on display in the Library.

The sculptures in both exhibits portray congenital defects and abnormalities, blindness, arthritis, heart disease, obesity, tumors, and nutritional problems. Some of the pieces date back to 2,000 B.C.

In viewing the medical sculptures, which are displayed along with several panels illustrating the programs and services of the Public Health Service's National Library of Medicine, Under Secretary Cohen noted the contrast between the sophisticated technology used by the Library and the primitive means available to the ancient medicine men for conveying their rudimentary knowledge.

"The pre-Columbian sculptors," according to Dr. Weisman, "depicted the pathology of many diseases, the physical states of the people, the knowledge of their physicians, and the skill of their surgeons." As evidence, he points to the symptoms and signs of malnutrition, deformity, physical and mental illness, the stages of pregnancy and childbirth, the techniques of amputation, trephining and possibly even Cesarean section.

The HEW exhibition will be open to the public in the Lobby of the Department's building at 3rd and Independence Avenue, S.W., from December 19 through January 19, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The display at the National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland, originally scheduled to close on December 31, has been extended through January 19. Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

NLM Holiday Schedule

The Library will be closed
December 24 through December 26
and December 31 through January 2.

New Assistant Executive Officer Named

Mr. Russell

George F. Russell, Jr., has become Assistant Executive Officer of the Library. He succeeds James D. Lawrence who has served with the Library since 1961 and has now transferred to the Regional Medical Program of the National Institutes of Health, PHS.

Mr. Russell's primary responsibility is the administration of contracts. He will also assist in overall management of NLM affairs.

Before joining the Library, he completed a one year National Institute of Public Affairs fellowship at the University of Indiana. Previously he was a management analyst in the Office of the Director, NIH. He entered the government as a management intern with the Social Security Administration.

Demand Search Service Temporarily Reduced

On December 1, 1966, the Library notified regular users of MEDLARS demand search service that effective immediately and until February 1, 1967, the Library will process demand bibliography requests only from institutions participating in the MEDLARS evaluation study (*NLM News*, October 1966).

Since MEDLARS became operational, requests for demand bibliographies have doubled each year. Despite the ability of the system to process more than 3,000 demand bibliographies in the past 12 months, in addition to *Index Medicus*, *Cumulated Index Medicus*, the *NLM Current Catalog* as well as several recurring bibliographies, a backlog of demand search requests has developed.

Reducing the service will enable the Library to eliminate the backlog so that when service is resumed delays will be minimal. It will also facilitate the critical evaluation of the MEDLARS system necessary to determine criteria for NLM's next generation of information services.

It is expected that search service will be resumed before February 1, 1967. Regional MEDLARS search centers should be operational soon and we expect them to be able to handle part of the demand search workload now concentrated mainly at NLM.

Guide to MEDLARS Services Issued

A 16-page booklet with exhibits has been prepared to assist users of MEDLARS demand search services. The *NLM Guide to MEDLARS Services* discusses the capabilities, limitations, and conditions under which searches are made to produce demand bibliographies. Single copies of the booklet are available to medical librarians on request to Dr. Clifford Bachrach, Chief, Bibliographic Services Division. Dr. Bachrach solicits comments on the format, contents, and usefulness of the publication to librarians in helping search users to formulate their requests.

(Continued from Page 2)

The project is also intended to identify scientists' information needs, to match those needs to a wide range of information services, to measure the impact of new information services, and to compare information-gathering patterns in several biomedical disciplines.

Other research projects receiving support include:

Title of Project	School or Institution	Amount*	Principal Investigator
Relationships of Biomedical Information Services	Wayne State University	$ 22,782	Vern M. Pings
Experimental Dissemination of Biomedical Literature	University of Chicago	118,479	Don R. Swanson
Total System Computer Program for Medical Libraries	University of New Mexico	57,033	Robert T. Divett
An Investigation of English Discourse Structure	System Development Corporation	32,179	John C. Olney
Impact of an SDI System on Mental Hospital Personnel	University of Missouri	39,104	Nina W. Matheson
Interdisciplinary Conferences on Drug Information	New York Academy of Sciences	30,471	Frank Fremont-Smith
Automatic Indexing of Drug Information	Rutgers-The State University	37,533	Susan Artandi

*Direct costs only

Twenty-nine other projects in the history of medicine and biomedical publications are receiving support. The Library's Extramural Program also supports certain research activities and publications under contract, and administers grants for library construction, improving and expanding basic library resources, manpower development, special scientific projects, and to help support planning for the operation of regional health sciences libraries.